



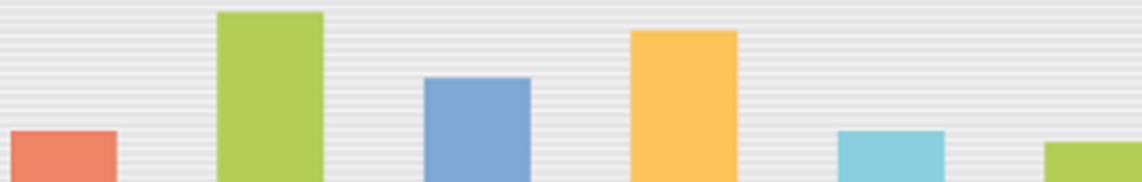
European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Prevalence and patterns of drug use among the general population (GPS)

Annual key-indicator expert meeting 2016

João Matias

Lisbon, 19-20 September 2016



Introduction to meeting

- **As always, this meeting provides an operational platform for methodological development and analyses**
- **Welcome to the new GPS experts, international experts**
- **Meeting information note sent in advance (agenda and documents for discussion)**
- **Thank you for all the speakers and chairs**
- **Dinner!**



Meeting overview

- **Focus on countries with new surveys presenting data - rather than the traditional EU overview**
- **Explore the potential of illicit drug use surveys: alcohol, tobacco, medicines – revision of the EMQ alcohol module**
- **Discuss new methodologies and studies linked to drug surveys**
- **How useful are drug surveys and the link with other indicators**
- **Explore available data on targeted surveys**
- **Special session: launch of the 2015 ESPAD report**
- **Continue work with the PDU indicator, to monitor frequent and high risk forms of cannabis use in GPS – joint session**



Progress of the indicator

- **Improved Statistical Bulletin with much more data that can be extracted**
- **Key-indicator assessment finalised in 2015**
- **Guidelines for monitoring high-risk cannabis use in GPS – finalising a technical paper**
- **Close collaboration with the ESPAD group**
- **Increased profile in international initiatives: GPS as an European Core Health Indicator**



Progress of the indicator

- **Focus on non-probabilistic surveys as a complement:**
 - European Web Survey on Drugs
 - Project on mapping drug use studies in nightlife settings
- **New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and perceived availability modules developed within the EMQ and posted online**
- **Cooperation with European projects (RARHA) to improve measurement of alcohol use, Club Health Conference**
- **Capacity building together with the Reitox Unit – launch of call for tenders for the first GPS in Montenegro and FYROM**



Progress of the indicator

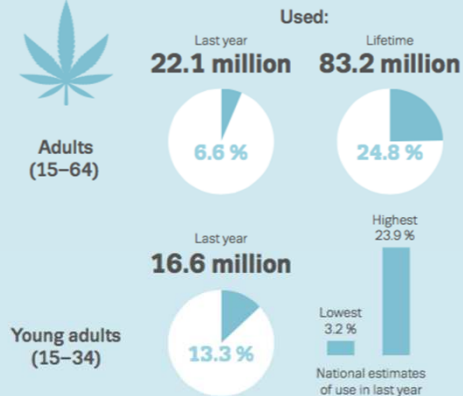
- **Increased visibility of GPS data**

- European Drug Report
- European Drug Markets Report
- Rapid Communication on the MDMA trendspotter study
- OFDT book on youth – to be published in October
- State of Health in the EU 2016 by OECD – to be published in November

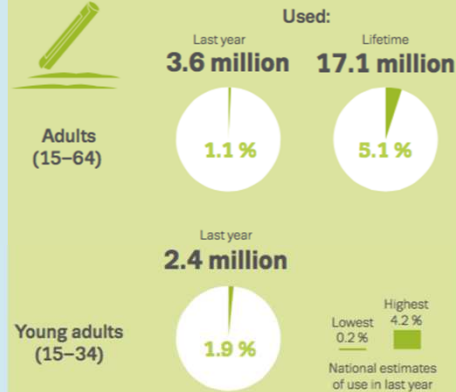


Illicit drugs use in Europe

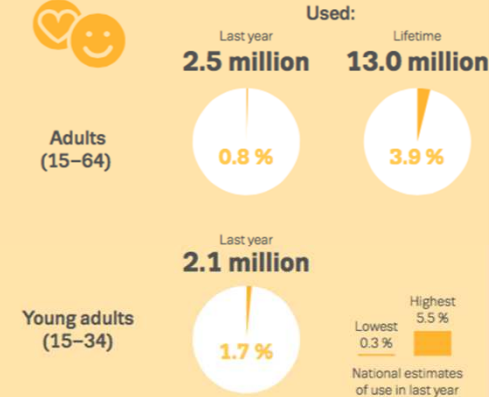
Cannabis



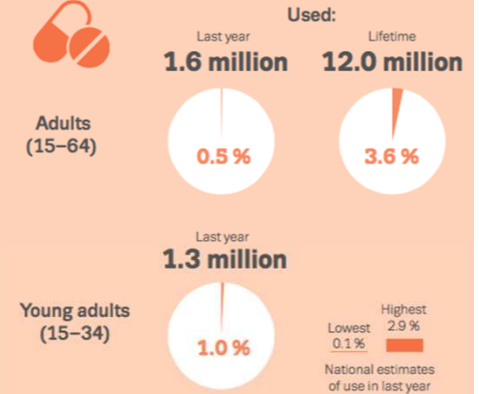
Cocaine



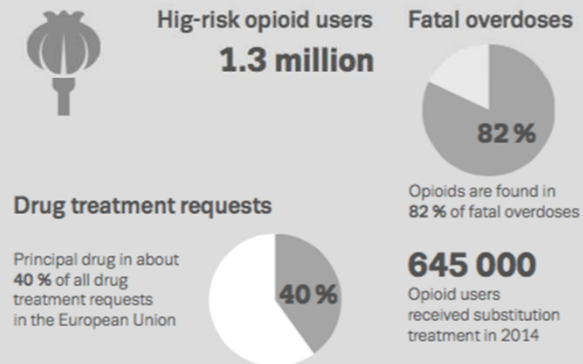
MDMA



Amphetamines

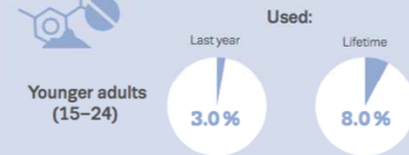


Opioids



- **Cannabis**: most commonly used
- **Cocaine**: most common stimulant
- **MDMA**: most common synthetic stimulant
- **Heroin and other opioids**: use relatively rare but associated to most harms
- **NPS**: low prevalence

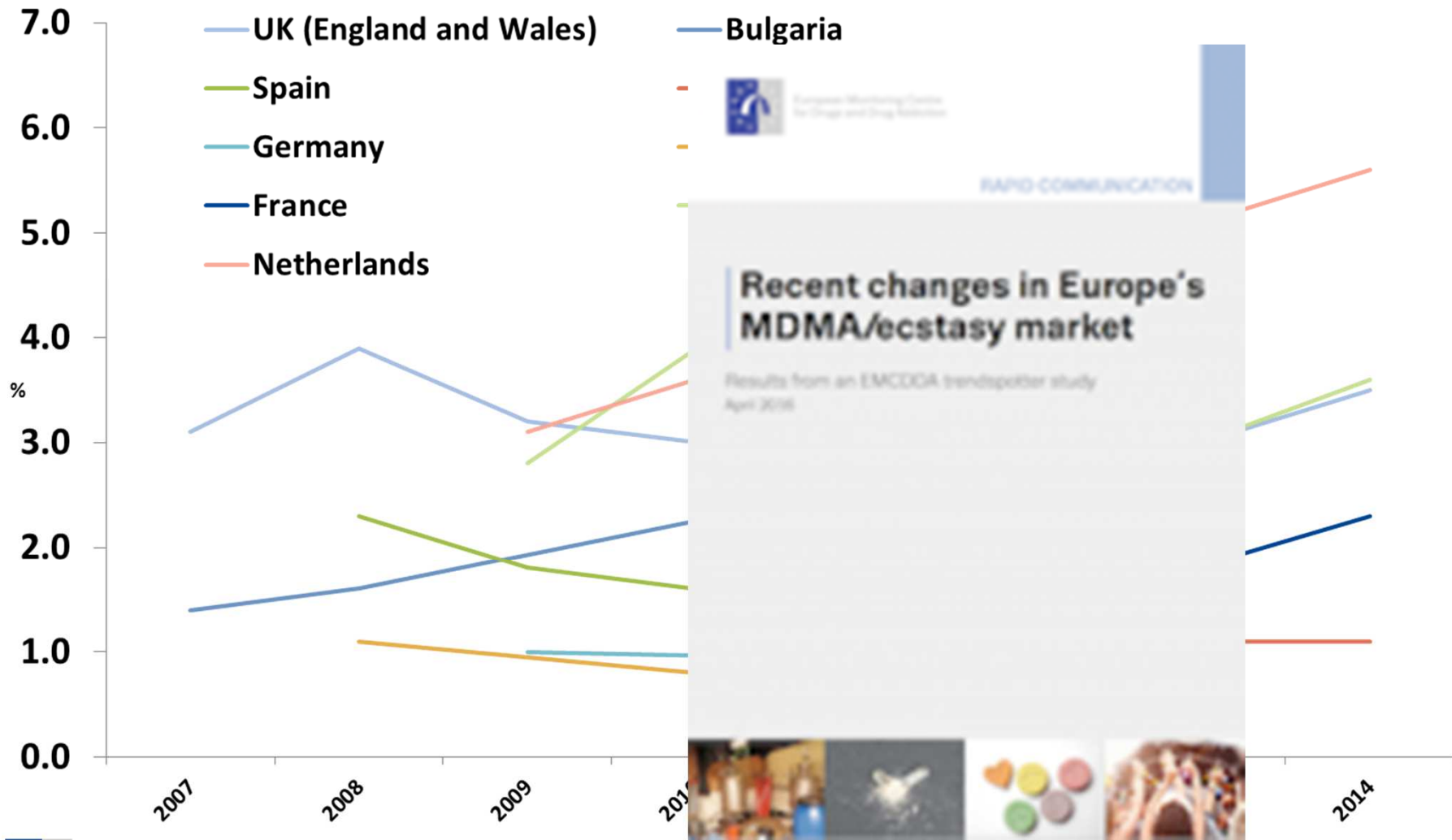
New psychoactive substances



Source: 2014 Flash Eurobarometer on young people and drugs



MDMA use: recent trends



ECHI data tool

The screenshot shows the ECHI Data Tool interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the European Commission logo and the title 'ECHI Data Tool'. Below the header, a breadcrumb trail reads 'European Commission > DG Health & Consumers > Public health > ECHI Data Tool'. The main content area is titled 'ECHI Data Tool' and features a 'Choose your indicator(s)' button. On the left, there is a 'Select Indicators in chapters' section with a 'Reset' button and a list of indicator categories: 'Demographic and Socio-economic factors indicators', 'Health Status indicators', 'Determinants of health indicators', and 'Health interventions : health services indicators'. On the right, there are two selection lists: 'Select Countries' and 'Select Years'. The 'Select Countries' list includes EU28, EU27, EU25, EU15, EU, Minimum, Average, Maximum, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, and Greece. The 'Select Years' list includes N/A, 2080, 2079, 2078, 2077, 2076, 2075, 2074, 2073, 2072, 2071, 2070, 2069, 2068, 2067, 2066, and 2065. Below these lists is an 'Update' button with a checkmark. At the bottom, there are tabs for 'About', 'Line chart', 'Bar chart', 'Map chart', 'Table chart', and 'Metadata'. The 'About' tab is active, displaying a welcome message: 'Welcome to the ECHI (European Core Health Indicators) data tool'. The message explains that the tool is a graphic and interactive application for presenting health information at the European level, grouped into five chapters: demographic and socio-economic factors, health status, determinants of health, health interventions: health services, and health promotion. It also mentions that there are 88 stamped indicators, with over 50 currently implemented, developed by experts to ensure comparability and quality.

European Commission

ECHI Data Tool

European Commission > DG Health & Consumers > Public health > ECHI Data Tool

ECHI Data Tool

Choose your indicator(s)

Select Indicators in chapters

- Demographic and Socio-economic factors indicators
- Health Status indicators
- Determinants of health indicators
- Health interventions : health services indicators

Select Countries

- EU28
- EU27
- EU25
- EU15
- EU
- Minimum
- Average
- Maximum
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Germany
- Estonia
- Ireland
- Greece

Select Years

- N/A
- 2080
- 2079
- 2078
- 2077
- 2076
- 2075
- 2074
- 2073
- 2072
- 2071
- 2070
- 2069
- 2068
- 2067
- 2066
- 2065

About | Line chart | Bar chart | Map chart | Table chart | Metadata

Welcome to the ECHI (European Core Health Indicators) data tool

The ECHI data tool is a graphic tool and an interactive application to present relevant and comparable information on health at European level. The tool presents a list of indicators, grouped in five chapters:

- demographic and socio-economic factors
- health status
- determinants of health
- health interventions: health services
- health promotion

Besides browsing through the indicators, users can access the [ECHI \(European Core Health Indicators\)](#) stamped indicators: 88 indicators - over 50 of them currently implemented - developed by a group of experts to ensure the highest comparability and the best quality. The aim of the indicators ECHI indicators is to provide the shortest



GPS: European Core Health Indicator

- **Shortlist of 88 European Core Health Indicators (ECHI), only 50 with definitions and data collection in place**
 - Use of illicit drugs (GPS) and Drug-related mortality (DRD) are amongst those
- **EC launched a roadmap of the existing health indicators and possible solutions**
- **Discussion at the European Health Forum Gastein in October 2015**
 - Session on the future of health information at EU level
 - GPS used as an example of a well-established EU health indicator
- **Member states assessing the possibility of creating an European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC)**



EMCDDA context: links to GPS

European indicators in the areas of drug markets are being developed

- perceived availability (and exposure) in GPS and ESPAD

Monitoring new drugs

- EMQ voluntary module on NPS

Wastewater analysis: potential as an indicator to estimate population drug consumption

- session later today

Monitoring open source information

- Work with the SAT unit



Update on the assessment of key-indicator GPS – presented to Management Board December 2015

- **Criteria established in 2009**
 - Process**
 - Data Quality**
- **2015 assessment on data delivered in 2014**
- **Overall, there is a better understanding and reporting of survey methodologies and greater comparability with the European Model Questionnaire (EMQ)**
- **All but one have conducted at least one national representative population survey**
- **Some countries are not able to maintain a series of surveys with the same regularity, due often to budget constraints**



Update on the assessment of key-indicator GPS – presented to Management Board December 2015

- Overall there is a growing problem with response rates
- Despite a growing recognition of the potential value of more targeted surveys, the mapping and reporting of surveys at the European level remains weak, as does the question of consolidation with the EMQ. More work is also needed to explore the value of Internet surveys
- Work is required to develop, test and implement standard questions in emerging areas of importance such as new psychoactive substances (NPS), the measurement of cannabis-related problems and the misuse of medicinal products.
- Almost all countries (24) reported having a formal working group in place for GPS, with eighteen countries reported that a national meeting on GPS was held in 2014

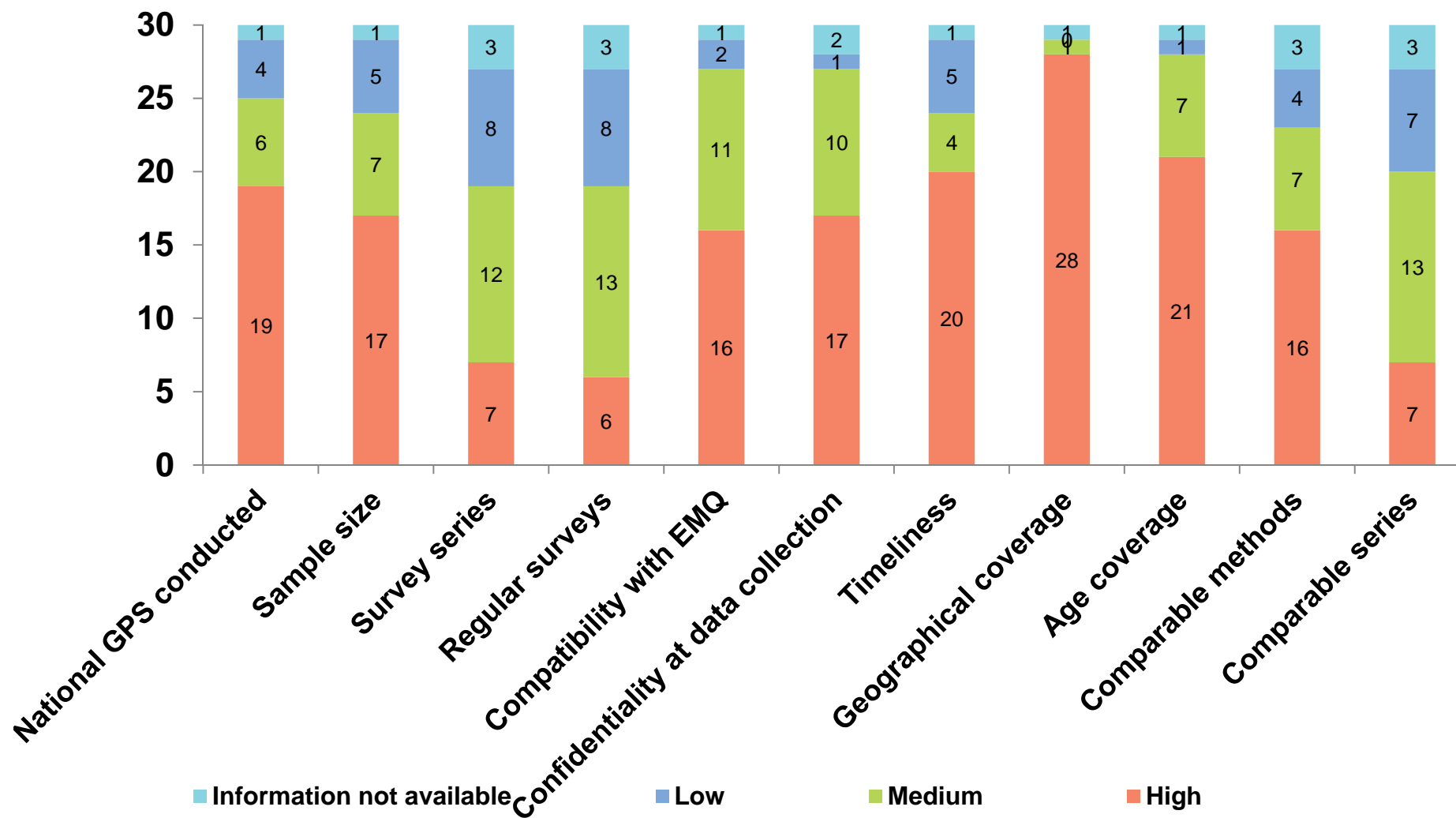


Update on the assessment of key-indicator GPS – presented to Management Board December 2015

- **The availability of funds for specific drug surveys is an obstacle to further improvement on implementation of the indicator and is reported specifically by one-third of the countries**
- **Progress relies on the continuity of repeated general population and school surveys, because this indicator, like others, produces the most accurate assessment of the situation (and therefore allows for better policy formulation and evaluation) when it is repeated over time**
- **Publishing the results of the surveys (e.g. in scientific literature and in EMCDDA publications) forms part of a wider implementation of the indicator**



Assessment of implementation of general population surveys



EMQ perceived availability module

Priorities in the EMCDDA 2013-15 work programme: to enhance existing data sets by increasing coverage and comparability and standardisation as well as to extend reporting. With regard to drug availability, this included perceived availability, exposure and access

The specific objectives for 2013 were to: assess the level of implementation of the EMQ voluntary module on perceived availability in general population surveys and to launch a data collection exercise on which to base an EU analysis, and to identify and assess the utility of other sources of relevant information.



EMQ perceived availability module

- **A data collection exercise in 2013 was built on the EMQ module that was developed in the early 2000s with the collaboration of an expert group and results of their field tests. Nine model questions in total had been developed**
- **The planned 2013 data collection exercise was informed by the EMCDDA Questions Map, which provided a map (or bank) of the questions (relevant to the EMQ) that were used in GPS. This provided a source of information by which to access the extent to which the EMQ module questions developed for monitoring drug availability had been included in general population surveys**
- **Next steps:**
 - Inclusion in Standard Table 1 – to be communicated in the HFNP meeting
 - Module in the European Web Survey on Drugs



NPS: importantly in the context of GPS...

- Many new drugs do not spread beyond small groups of experienced users
- Branded products on the mainstream 'legal highs' market poses significant problems in identifying which particular drugs are being used
- Drugs used in products change over time and place but...
 - increase in numbers, diversity, availability of NPS...
 - increase in law enforcement seizures
 - increase in serious adverse events
 - Lack of epidemiological data on prevalence data
- EMQ module developed and tested. Same question used in ESPAD and Eurobarometer
- Voluntary field trial to be launched in 2017– to be communicated in the HFNP meeting



Current and future activities (also based on national abstracts)

- **GPS as the core component of the indicator**
- **But complement with targeted surveys (online, nightlife,...)**
- **Continue the project of “Harmonization of *national databases*”?**
- **Update the questionnaire mapping -> repository**
- **Network management (volunteers)**
- **Regional Reitox Academy in Latvia on cannabis issues**



The background of the slide is a reproduction of the painting 'The Scream' by Edvard Munch. It depicts a turbulent, orange and red sky over a dark, swirling sea, with figures on a bridge in the foreground. The text is overlaid on this image.

‘Horizon 2020’

**A EU-wide adults survey on
drugs like ESPAD**

Utopia?

**Feedback from the national
abstracts**

**Limit to young adults and a
core set of the EMQ?**



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Thank you


Joao.Matias@emcdda.europa.eu



[@JPCIMatias](https://twitter.com/JPCIMatias)

[| emcdda.europa.eu](http://emcdda.europa.eu)

 twitter.com/emcdda

 facebook.com/emcdda

 youtube.com/emcddatube

 flickr.com/photos/emcdda